

II HISTORICAL DATA

A. Historical Development and Early Uses

The earliest settlers near the shores of Mendums Pond arrived in the early 18th century. A Scotch-Irishman named John Mackdonnell built a home near the western shore in 1719. He brought with him his wife and infant son, who was born at sea on the way to America. This son, named John, changed his name to McDonel, which eventually derived to McDaniel, the name used by the present generation living in the area. The cellar hole of the original homestead can still be seen near McDaniel Shore Road (Wiggin, 1966).

Mendums Pond was named in 1742 for Captain Nathaniel Mendum of Portsmouth, owner of a sawmill at the outlet of the pond. It was at this time that most of the early settlers arrived. Five garrison homes were built for safety from the "restless and dangerous" Winnecowett Indians. Farming was difficult because of the rocky earth in the Barrington area. Other industries that were established at this time included iron works and grist and grain mills.

Barrington's population grew rapidly after 1750. The road from Concord to Durham was completed in 1803, bringing more business into the area. In the year 1810 the population of Barrington reached 3564. Actual population data is presented in Figure II-1 (data courtesy of N.H. Office of State Planning). One of the businesses of that time was the Newmarket Manufacturing Company, which purchased land and rights to Mendums Pond in 1825. A dam was built on this property between 1839 and 1842 and is still in operation today, after improvements by New Hampshire Water Resources Division.

Many people moved out of the area after the Civil War to pursue employment in nearby towns. Farmers moved away to work in factories and mills. However, the sagging economy was rivitalized in 1870 by the introduction of a railroad line from Worcester to Nashua and Rochester. Many businesses developed due to the success of the railroad: blacksmiths, grain and steam mills, a canning factory, a shoe factory, a brick yard, and several others. Summer visitors came to Barrington to enjoy the many lakes and ponds. Farmers opened their homes to summer boarders.

The Lamprey River Improvement Company (a subsidiary of NH Gas & Electric) purchased the dam and surrounding property in 1916. There was an on-going

Population of Barrington N.H.

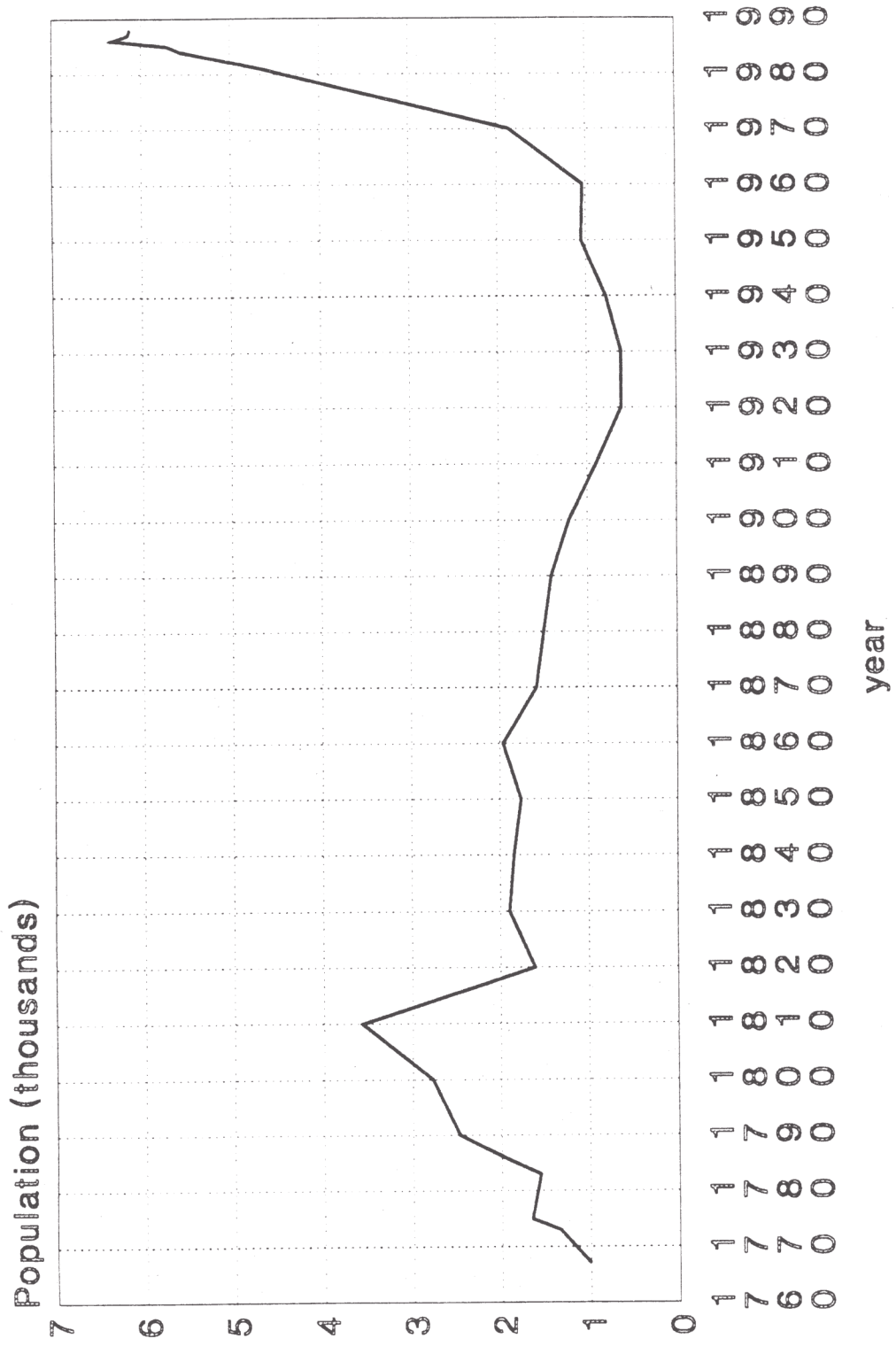


Figure II-1 Population Data, Barrington, N.H.

water level conflict between the electric company and waterfront property owners using the pond for recreation. This was later resolved with an agreement to lower a number of area ponds by a small amount, rather than greatly lowering Mendums Ponds all at once (NH Department of Environmental Services, Water Resources Division files).

The State of New Hampshire acquired ownership of the dam and its access in 1955. There were nine camps and a small number of motor boats and canoes on the pond at that time (NH Water Resources Division files).

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) acquired from Arthur McDaniel 750 acres of wooded property on the southeastern shore of Mendums Pond in 1970. UNH students conducted a Wildlife Management Plan on this property. Its uses include wildlife habitat, nature trails, a picnic area, and boating (including windsurfing and sailing classes).

The dam access was open to the public until 1975 when it was closed due to repeated vandalism to the dam. The UNH Recreation Area has a launch for portable boats (i.e. canoes, small sailboats and small row boats).

B. Historical Water Quality Data

Mendums Pond surveys were completed by New Hampshire Fish and Game in 1937 and 1959. The pond was reported to have brown water, 100% rocky shoreline, scant vegetation, and a transparency to 17 feet (5.2 meters). The 1959 chemical data (Table II-1) shows a pH of 6.2 at the surface, and a pH of 5.4 at 40 feet of depth (12.2m). Recommendations were made to continue with a warm water fish management policy, although, the pond is no longer stocked by Fish and Game (Hoover, 1938).

Table II-1
Mendums Pond
NH Fish and Game Data

Date	Air Temp (°C)	Depth (feet)	Temp (°C)	pH (unit)	O ₂ (ppm)	CO ₂ (ppm)
8/13/59	82	Surface	72	6.2	7.7	4
		10	72	6.2	7.7	4
		20	57	5.4	4.7	12
		30	52	5.4	4.7	14
		40	52	5.4	3.2	16

The United States Environmental Protection Agency sampled Mendums Pond in 1984 (USEPA, 1986). Various chemical analyses were conducted. Table II-2 presents some of the data pertinent to this study.

Table II-2
1984 Mendums Pond Data

<u>Date</u>	<u>October 30, 1984</u>
Transparency	4.5m
pH	6.03
Acid Neutralizing Capacity	0.8 mg/L as CaCO ₃
Specific Conductance	10.5 umhos/cm
True Color	25 CPU

C. Volunteer Monitoring Program

Two lake associations on Mendums Pond participate in the New Hampshire Lakes Lay Monitoring Program (LLMP) at the University of New Hampshire. This provides additional data from 1987 to the present. Because of differing monitoring techniques, and due to the fact that the the LLMP laboratory is not an EPA inspected lab, the data cannot be utilized in our data interpretation. However, this data is valuable in determining lake quality trends. A summary of the LLMP raw data is presented in Appendix II-1. A map showing the sample locations is presented in Figure II-2.

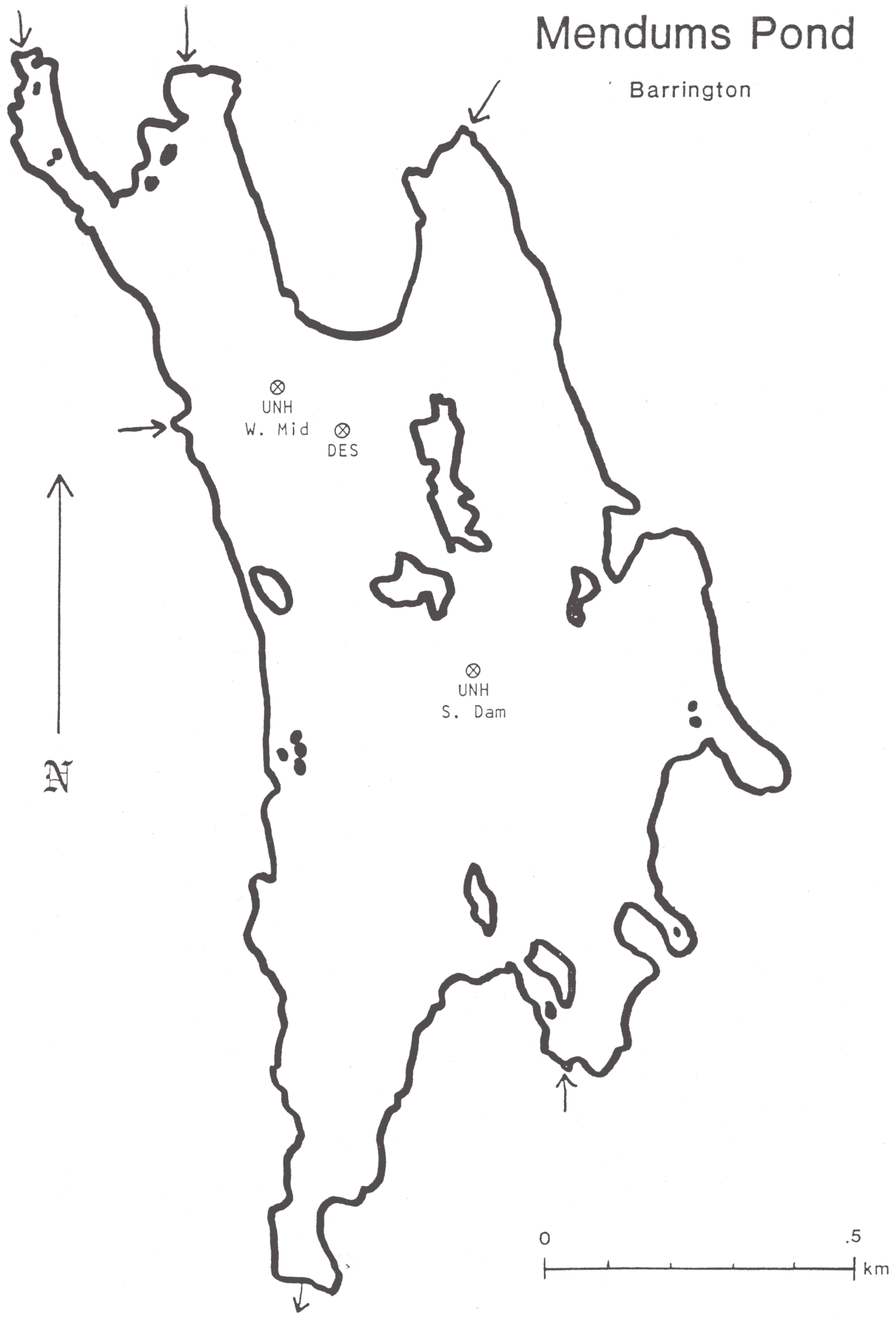


Figure 11-2. DES and UNH In-Lake Sample Stations.